

**FORM B - BUILDING**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

F

FORM NO.

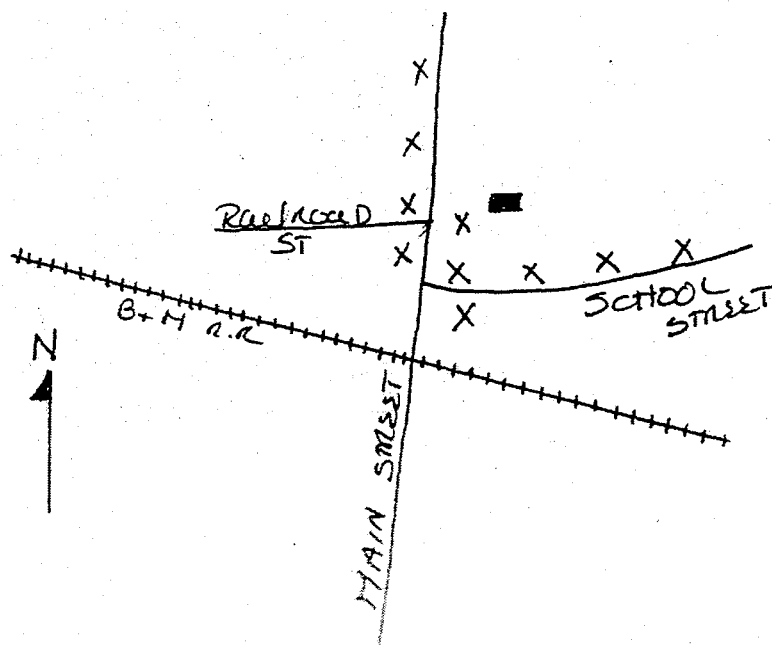
416



Town ACTON  
Address 127 Main Street  
Historic Name Jones Cider Mill  
Use: Present residential  
Original commercial  
Description  
Date ca. 1860  
Source Nylander notes, Phalen  
Style utilitarian / Greek Revival

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

Assessor's Map # H-2A-11



Architect unknown  
Exterior Wall Fabric  
Outbuildings none  
Major Alterations (with dates) conversion to residential use  
Condition good  
Moved no Date n/a  
Acreage less than one acre  
Setting Set up from road behind the Al Jones house and behind Exchange Hall, commercial center of 19th c. village  
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler  
Organization Acton Historical Commission  
Date May 1990

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The property is eligible for National Register nomination as part of the School-River-Main Mill and Commercial Historic District for Criteria:

A - its association with the development of the railroad community from the 1840s with thriving mills and retail businesses on School, River and Main, as well as the owners and workers housing.

C - its representation of the Greek Revival and Italianate architecture most popular in developing the community of South Acton.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

South Acton, once part of the 1000-acre farm granted to Concord's Major Simon Willard, was sold to Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight in 1701. The first fulling mill was established and throughout the 18th and 19th century there were active mill privileges on Fort pond Brook at Mill Corner where Main Street (once known as Maynard Road) and High, Maple, and School Streets intersect. South Acton was the first village center, preceding Acton Centre, which became the institutional center. With the advent of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 came the major growth of South Acton as an industrial village.

Mill Corner, later known as Exchange Square was the heart of the 18th century mill and commercial village and of the 19th century industrial railroad village. The intersection of the main north-south transportation route and School Street which was the most direct route to Concord from the early 1700s also had the railroad with depot, several mid 19th century commercial structures, and Stow Street which ended at Railroad Street before the overpass railroad bridge was built in 1906.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlas/Birdseye/Map: 1870, 1875, 1886, 1889, 1892.  
Acton Historical Society, Jenks Library Files.  
Nylander and Forbes, "Mill Corner", 1989.  
Nylander, Robert, research notes, 1980s.  
Phalen, History of Town of Acton, 1954.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

ACTON

Form No:

F-416

Property Name: 127 Main Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 127 MAIN STREET

The plain gable front dwelling reveals its earlier utilitarian use and design with its lack of elaboration. Built on a granite foundation the building has clapboard siding. It is three bays wide and three bays deep and has a full width porch which is dilapidated and supported by 2" x 4" posts. Remnants of a plain balustrade and round tapered columns are visible.

The main facade has an awkward fenestration pattern. On the right side there are paired 2/1 sash in abutting frames up and down. A single bay is found at the first and second story level on the left side. The modern entrance door is between the two but not centered. The multi-light door is close to the single sash window on the left side. In the gable peak there is a single window with 6/6 sash. The simply molded cornice and returns are supported by narrow cornerboards. On the west side with 3 bays there is an overhead garage door at the first story level as well as a 6/1 window and a small 2/1 sash near the front of the house.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Once part of the Jones Cider Mill, this building was converted to a dwelling in 1910. From ca. 1750 there had been a cider mill on this site owned by Samuel Jones of Jones Tavern (128 Main Street). According to the Tavern account books the mill was rebuilt in 1796 and in 1802 became the property of Aaron Jones, son of Samuel and the proprietor of Jones Tavern. Aaron's son, Abel Jones (1783-1872) purchased half interest in the cider mill in 1818 and inherited the other half in 1837. He lived on the site and ran the mill and surrounding farm. In 1851, a few years after he had built his fine Greek Revival house at 34 School Street, Abel sold the mill and property to his son, Abram Hapgood Jones (1819-1907). The mill building was probably rebuilt in the early to mid 19th century. The cider mill was in operation as late as 1875; however, there is no record of it in the 1902 Directory when Henry Barker's cider mill is the only one located in South Acton. Abram Jones continued to be listed in directories as a farmer.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom